

# Report

SUMMER 2022

PUBLISHED BY MARIN INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON THE AMERICAS

“The US Appears to be Destined by Providence to Plague the Americas with Misery in the Name of Freedom.” - Simón Bolívar, 1829

## COLOMBIA: Petro and Márquez Defeat the Far Right



Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez win Elections in Colombia. (Photo: Venezuela News)

By Ben Norton, journalist

Gustavo Petro won the first round of Colombia’s presidential election on May 29. In the second round, he defeated far-right candidate Rodolfo Hernández, a real estate mogul with an estimated \$100 million in wealth.

Petro previously served as mayor of the capital, Bogotá, and long before that was a former guerrilla in the armed socialist group M-19. After putting down his weapons, he moderated his politics and moved to the center-left. His presidential campaign brought together a broad coalition of left-wing parties, under the name the *Pacto Histórico* (Historic Pact), ranging from liberals to the Communist Party.

Petro will face many obstacles to governing. He does not have a majority in the bicameral Congress; both the Senate and Chamber of Representatives remain dominated by right-wing, centrist, and neoliberal parties.

Colombia’s state security services, which are closely linked to paramilitary groups, and which killed thousands of civilians in the “*falsos positivos*” (false positives) scandal, are also openly antagonistic to Petro. The chief of Colombia’s armed forces, General

Eduardo Zapateiro, publicly attacked Petro on Twitter, violating national laws that stipulate that military officers cannot interfere in the electoral process.

An ardent supporter of peace, Petro hopes to settle the armed conflict that has destabilized Colombia for decades. He wants to honor the government’s 2016 peace deal with the FARC, which has been systematically violated by the administration of current far-right President Iván Duque. Hundreds of signatories of this agreement, former socialist revolutionaries who put down their arms, have been murdered since 2016.

In an attempt to facilitate peace, Petro has called for land reform. He recognizes that land ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few oligarchs, with millions of campesinos toiling in brutal, inhumane conditions, and understands how this has fueled violence. He wants to ensure that peasants will have their rights guaranteed against the multinational corporations, Colombian oligarchs, and death squads that have long terrorized them. This, however, is much easier said than done.

Petro also pledged to reverse the neoliberal

economic policies that have ravaged Colombia, pushing a staggering 40% of the population into poverty. In 2021, working-class Colombians revolted against the crushing austerity measures of current President Duque. Petro supported the anti-neoliberal protests that rocked the country for months.

Duque, for his part, was the hand-picked candidate of Colombia’s former far-right President Álvaro Uribe, a powerful representative of the oligarchy who is closely linked to drug cartels and paramilitary death squads. Petro’s victory represents the end of the right-wing *Uribista* movement that has dominated Colombian politics since Uribe first rose to power in 2002.

The *Pacto Histórico*’s vice-presidential candidate, Francia Márquez, is a leftist social movement activist from the Afro- community, which has been historically marginalized and repressed by the Colombian state and oligarchy. Márquez has publicly criticized the US government for meddling in Colombia’s electoral process, and has condemned the war on drugs, which she called a failure. She

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# AMERICAS

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wants peace and opposes further militarization of the country. She blasted Colombia's free-trade agreement with the United States, saying it should be renegotiated. Márquez has stressed the urgent need for land reform and reparations for indigenous peoples and oppressed nations in Colombia. (A lawyer, she earned the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2018 for her mobilization efforts against illegal gold mining.)

When it comes to his foreign policy, Petro has a more mixed record. He harshly

criticized the socialist governments of Venezuela and Nicaragua during his presidential campaign, making baseless accusations and comparisons that leftists across Latin America condemned as ridiculous. But both Petro and Márquez have called for normalizing relations with Colombia's neighbor Venezuela. This means that, although their government certainly won't be a friend of Venezuela's Chavista movement, it will end recognition of US-appointed coup leader Juan Guaidó.

Colombia's current far-right Duque government is one of fewer than 15 countries in the

world that still recognize Guaidó as supposed "president" of Venezuela, even though he has never received a single vote in a presidential election. Under Duque, Colombia has supported violent cross-border attacks on Venezuela, including a failed invasion in May 2020, which was sponsored by the Donald Trump administration, and, according to Colombians involved in the operation, overseen by the CIA.

Source: *Multipolarista.com*, 6/19/22

## ALBA: The Best Alternative for the Unity of the Americas

*By Alejandra Garcia, journalist*

Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua found an alternative and inclusive platform where they could freely express their ideas and advocate for a true Latin American union, contrary to the Summit of the Americas being convened by the administration of US President Joe Biden in Los Angeles. Ten days before the hemispheric meeting organized by Washington, Havana hosted the conference of the leaders of the ten nations that make up ALBA (the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America).

As spokespersons for the countries that the United States tried to exclude from the meeting as if they were not part of the Americas, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua finally showed Washington an inclusive route to follow to achieve sustainable and balanced development in Latin America. "These are times to unite, not divide; to dialogue, not confront," Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel affirmed during the ALBA Summit inauguration.

At the event, Díaz-Canel made it clear that the IX Summit of the Americas will be a setback in hemispheric relations if the US refuses to invite all the sovereign states of the continent. Although the Cuban president stressed that he will not attend the event under any circumstance, he assured that no country should be left behind just because of Washington's political whim.

"I appreciate the stance of the Latin American and Caribbean countries that have rejected the White House's attempts to disunite us. The Summit of the Americas should be for all the nations of the Americas, without exclusion, and not a meeting between the United States and its guests according to Washington's polit-

*Simon Bolivar: "When tyranny becomes law, rebellion is a right."*

*(Photo: Noticias Caracas)*

ical sympathies," the Cuban leader commented.

In dialogue with the press, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros noted that "the ALBA meeting is our lifeboat. It will help us focus on working to improve life and achieve the development of our countries. ALBA already has a heritage, a clear doctrine of the relationship between our peoples. It can show concrete results of our work since its foundation on December 14, 2004."

The leaders of St. Lucia, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines also took part in the event, some of them remotely. They offered their support to the demands of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela following Washington's hostilities. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister

Ralph Everard Gonsalves confirmed that his nation received Washington's invitation to the IX Summit of the Americas. "However, I can assure you that I will not attend unless all of us get an invitation."

In summary: the regional leaders agreed that it is time to build a great homeland, the one dreamed of by Simón Bolívar and Jose Martí, and this will only be possible through instruments of regional integration such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the ALBA-TCP.

"The United States has not yet understood that Latin America and the Caribbean have changed forever. We are strong. We are one." Díaz-Canel concluded.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano – English*, 5/29/22

## And Then There was No More Empire

By Vijay Prashad, historian and journalist

Empire denies its own existence. It does not exist as an empire but only as benevolence, with its mission to spread human rights and sustainable development across the world. However, that perspective means nothing in Havana nor in Caracas, where ‘human rights’ has come to mean regime change, and where ‘sustainable development’ has come to mean the throttling of their people through sanctions and blockades. It is from the standpoint of the victims of empire that clarity comes.

US President Joe Biden is to host the summit of the Americas in June, where he hopes to deepen Washington’s hegemony over the Americas. The US government understands that its project of hegemony faces an existential crisis caused by the weaknesses of the US political system and the US economy, with limited funds available for investment within its own country, let alone for the rest of the world. At the same time US hegemony faces a serious challenge from China, whose Belt and Road Initiative has been seen in large parts of Latin America and the Caribbean as an alternative to the International Monetary Fund’s austerity agenda. Rather than work alongside Chinese investments, the US is eager to use any means to prevent China from engaging with countries in the Americas. The US has revitalized the Monroe Doctrine. This policy, which will be two centuries old next year, claims that the Americas are the dominion of the United States, its ‘sphere of influence’, and its ‘backyard’ (although Biden has tried to be cute by calling the region the US’s ‘front yard’).

Along with the International People’s Assembly, we have developed a red alert on two instruments of US power – The Organization of American States and the Summit of the Americas – as well as the challenge that the US faces as it tries to impose its hegemony in the region. The red alert is featured below. Please read it, discuss it, and share it.

What is the Organization of American States? The Organization of American States (OAS) was formed in Bogotá, Co-



People’s Summit  
(Photo: Theresa Cameranesi)

lombia in 1948 by the United States and its allies. Though the OAS Charter invokes the rhetoric of multilateralism and cooperation, the organization has been used as a tool to fight against communism in the hemisphere and to impose a US agenda on the countries of the Americas. Roughly half of the funds for the OAS and 80 percent of the funds for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), an autonomous organ of the OAS, come from the US. It is worth noting that, despite providing most of its budget, the US has not ratified any of the IACHR’s treaties.

The OAS showed its true colors after the Cuban Revolution (1959). In 1962, at a meeting in Punta del Este (Uruguay), Cuba, a founding OAS member, was expelled from the organization. The declaration from the meeting stated that ‘the principles of communism are incompatible with the principles of the inter-American system’. In response, Fidel Castro called the OAS the ‘US Ministry of Colonies’.

The OAS set up the Special Consultative Committee on Security against the Subversive Action of International Communism in 1962, with the purpose of allowing the elites in the Americas – led by the US – to use every means possible against popular movements of the working class and peasantry. The OAS has afforded diplomatic and political cover to the US’s Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as it has participated in the overthrow of governments that attempt to exercise their legitimate sovereignty that the OAS Charter purports to guarantee. This exercise has gone all the way from the OAS’s expulsion of Cuba

in 1962 to the orchestration of coups in Honduras (2009) and Bolivia (2019) to the repeated attempts to overthrow the governments of Nicaragua and Venezuela and ongoing interference in Haiti.

Since 1962, the OAS has openly acted alongside the US government to sanction countries without a UN Security Council resolution, which makes these sanctions illegal. It has, therefore, regularly violated the ‘principle of non-interference’ in its own charter, which prohibits ‘armed force and any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of the State or against its political, economic, and cultural elements’ (chapter 1, article 2, and chapter IV, article 19).

What is the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)? Venezuela, led by President Hugo Chávez, initiated a process in the early 2000s to build new regional institutions outside of US control. Three major platforms were built in this period: 1) the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) in 2004; 2) the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in 2004; and 3) the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2010. These platforms established inter-governmental connections across the Americas, including summits on matters of regional importance and technical institutions to enhance trade and cultural interactions across borders. Each of these platforms has faced threats from the US. As governments in the region oscillate politically, their commitment to these platforms has either increased (the more left they have been) or decreased (the more subordinate they have been to the US).

At the 6th Summit of CELAC in Mexico City in 2021, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador suggested that the OAS be disbanded and that CELAC help to build a multilateral organization at the scale of the European Union to resolve regional conflicts, build trade partnerships, and promote the unity of the Americas.

What is the Summit of the Americas? With the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the United States attempted to dominate the world by using its military power to discipline any state that

did not accept its hegemony (as in Panama, 1989 and Iraq, 1991) and by institutionalizing its economic power through the World Trade Organization, set up in 1994. The US called the OAS member states to Miami for the first Summit of the Americas in 1994, which was subsequently handed over to the OAS to manage. The summit has convened every few years since to ‘discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level’.

Despite its stronghold over the OAS, the US has never been able fully to impose its agenda at these summits. At the third summit in Quebec City (2001) and the fourth summit in Mar del Plata (2005), popular movements held large counter-protests; at

Mar del Plata, Venezuela’s President Hugo Chávez led a massive demonstration, which resulted in the collapse of the US-imposed Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement. The fifth and sixth summits at Port of Spain (2009) and Cartagena (2012) became a battlefield for the debate over the US blockade on Cuba and its expulsion from the OAS. Due to immense pressure from the member states of the OAS, Cuba was invited to the seventh and eighth summits in Panama City (2015) and Lima (2018), against the wishes of the US.

However, the US would not invite Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela to the ninth summit, held in June 2022. Several countries, including Bolivia and Mexico, said that they would not attend the meeting unless

all thirty-five countries in the Americas were in attendance. From 8–10 June, a range of progressive organizations held a People’s Summit to counter the OAS summit and to amplify the voices of all the peoples of the Americas.

The sun is setting on imperialism as we emerge slowly and delicately into a world that seeks meaningful equality rather than subordination. ‘This small place’, wrote one poet about a corner of the Americas, ‘produces nothing but beauty’. That would be true of the entire world if we could get beyond our long, modern history of battles and sieges, warships, and nuclear weapons.

Source: *Tricontinental*, 05/29/22

## BIDEN’S SUMMIT: Pretending to Teach Democracy

By *Gustavo A. Maranges*, journalist

*Editor’s note: This article has been lightly edited because of changes in time.*

In the civil society forums at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in early June, clashes between those who support the hegemonic role of the United States and those who defend the sovereignty of the Latin American peoples never ceased. The discourse of hatred towards those arbitrarily excluded by the US government prevailed. It was a scenario prepared down to the smallest detail since not only were the governments of Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela excluded, but their civil society representatives.

The most visible case was the 23 Cuban artists, scientists, and social leaders whose visas were not processed to prevent them from attending the Peoples’ Summit. The objective is to make the reality of Cuba and the other states invisible, to replace it with a different one that justifies the permanent aggressions these peoples suffer. That’s why the organizers invited other political actors, disguised as civil society activists, whose speeches were not only in line with the US policy of interference but were designed in the State Department or the office of some Senators and Congressmen.

After this staging, it is understandable that what happened took both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) Luis Almagro by surprise. Neither was prepared to hear the truth so close.

As Blinken was pretending to give lessons on democracy and freedom of the press he crashed with two stones, two journalists who knew very well the double standards of American politicians. Both Abby Martin (The Empire Files & Media Roots News) and Eugene Puryear (Break Through News) reminded Blinken that the United States has no moral high ground to offer lessons about those issues when it turned the blind eye after the murders of journalists Sheerin Abu Akala and Jamal Khashoggi. Both were US citizens, and since the alleged perpetrators are strategic US allies, freedom of the press can wait!

On the other hand, Puryear questioned the Biden administration’s parameters for measuring democracy. He wondered how it is possible to exclude Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua because they are considered “anti-democratic countries” while inviting Haiti’s Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was not democratically elected and is even suspected of being linked to the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Something similar happened to Alma-

gro, who was unable to articulate a coherent response when a member of the audience reminded him of all the attacks against democracy and freedom of the press that he has taken part in. Among the most recent ones are the Sacaba and Senkata massacres, where 36 people were murdered for peacefully demanding the return to democracy after the coup d’état in Bolivia, with which Almagro actively collaborated.

In the same context, journalist Sebastián Moro was beaten to death in his apartment. The simple fact of exposing the truth about the human rights violations during the coup government of Jeanine Añez and the hidden powers behind the coup d’état cost him his life.

The IX Summit of the Americas was a resounding failure for Biden, and all those who believed that the important issues of the region can be solved there. However, it would be unfair not to recognize that the Summit also had a positive side: it provided the perfect excuse for more than 250 social organizations to meet in the same city to hold the real summit, the People’s Summit for Democracy. Here is where the real problems of Latin America are discussed by those who suffer the consequences, the poor and marginalized majorities of the region.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano – English*, 06/09/22

# AMERICAS

## Workers' Summit of the Americas

By Roger D. Harris, Board Member TFA

The Workers' Summit of the Americas in Tijuana was organized as an alternative to Biden's Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles as a place where countries besieged by and barred from the US could participate. This *encuentro* was held in cooperation with the Peoples Summit in Los Angeles.

The Tijuana *encuentro* called for the unity of grassroots working class, peasant, political, and social movements to create a permanent forum for solidarity and linking of progressive struggles.

Organizers from workers, peace, human rights, and solidarity organizations from north of the Rio Grande included 1199 SEIU, Alliance for Global Justice, All-African People's Revolutionary Party, Fire This Time, Unión del Barrio, Troika Collective, Black Lives Matter - OKC, and the Latino Community Service Organization (CSO) along with the Task Force on the Americas (TFA).

Mexican participation included Movimiento Social Por la Tierra, Sindicato Mexicano Electricista, and Frente Popular Revolucionario. Venezuelans included Plataforma



TFA Board members on the Mexico side of the border (Photo; Roger D. Harris)

de la Clase Obrera Antiimperialista (PCOA). Among the other participating organizations were Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo de Nicaragua (ATC), and the Haitian MOLEGHAF.

Host Jesús Ruiz Barraza, rector of CUT-University of Tijuana, opened the *encuentro* on June 10. Former president of Ecuador Rafael Correa, and US political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal (both via recording) welcomed "the "delegates of the excluded."

Nelson Herrera of PCOA, Rosario Rodríguez Remos of the Central Union of Cuba,

and Fausto Torres Arauz of the ATC of Nicaragua spoke. Campesino leader Braulio Alvarez and unionist Jacobo Torres, both Venezuelans, addressed the meeting.

The second day was devoted to movement building and featured workshops on solidarity with the countries excluded from the Biden summit: Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.

TFA board member David Paul presented the Sanctions Kill report; I spoke on Free-AlexSaab; and Karl Kramer moved a resolution opposing US military aid to El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. TFA board member and Green Party candidate Laura Wells reported on the Left Unity slate in the California primary election.

With flags and banners flapping in the sea breeze, the last day convened on the international border. The final declaration of the Workers Summit called for a robust internationalism to promote solidarity with the sovereign nations and peoples suffering from sanctions imposed by the US and its allies. Latin America and the Caribbean were proclaimed a zone of peace.

Source: *Task Force on the Americas*, 6/17/22

## People's Summit of the Americas

By Rick Sterling, President of TFA Board

The People's Summit for Democracy took place in Los Angeles on June 6 - 8. I attended the inspiring conference along with Theresa Cameranesi and David Paul from TFA.

The People's Summit was convened by a coalition of organizations and unions, with endorsement from TFA and other activist groups. Held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College in downtown LA, it included three days of excellent presentations and discussions, plus an art-photo exhibit in the outdoors activist/craft pavilion. There was live music and dancing at night. Many panels and plenaries were recorded and can be seen at <https://www.instagram.com/peoplessummit22/channel/>

We distributed TFA literature and made numerous organizational contacts at the event. A high point included the fact that the majority of participants were young, and Latinx and Afro-descendant. Several visitors to our table expressed interest in visiting Nicaragua to see that small country's amazing agricultural progress based on small farmers and cooperatives.

The lineup of speakers and panels each of the three days was impressive. They addressed issues including healthcare, student debt, hous-



Starting the march at the People's Summit (Photo: Rick Sterling)

ing and homelessness, police violence and the need for immigration reform. There were panel discussions on Youth Organizing Strategies, Justice for the TPS (Temporary Protection Status) community, ending gender violence and the importance of food sovereignty and cultural resistance.

Julian Assange's father and brother spoke to the huge crowd. So did Cornel West, Meade Benjamin, Brian Becker, and many more. Bertha Zuniga from Honduras spoke, as did the Puerto Rican activist and former prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera. At the final meeting, there were video addresses by the presidents of

Cuba and Venezuela and the former president of Bolivia (Evo Morales).

On Friday a massive rally and march wound through downtown LA. The streets echoed with chants and music. The march ended outside the Convention Center where the Summit of the Americas, hosted by the US State Department, had just concluded.

The Summit of the Americas, intended to reinforce US dominance of the hemisphere, was a flop! Led by Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the presidents of seven countries boycotted the Summit because of the US exclusion of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. Several leaders said exclusion should never again be allowed. They openly criticized the US policies of excluding certain countries, and of imposing deadly sanctions.

The People's Summit presented a very different vision of both domestic and international issues, starting with the concept that we will learn from each other. From that foundational point, the People's Summit was an inspiring success. *The final declaration can be found at <https://peoplessummit2022.org/thelatest>.*

Source: *Task Force on the Americas*, 6/19/22

## CUBA vs US: Abortion and Democracy

*By Calla Walsh, a participant in the 15th May Day Brigade to Cuba*

*Ed. Note: This article was excerpted for length*

Abortion was first legalized in Cuba in 1936 in cases of rape, risk to the mother's life, or the possibility of passing on a serious disease to the fetus.

Before the 1959 revolution, Cubans lived through a period of US neocolonialism, and private medical clinics thrived by offering US "health tourists" services like abortion that were not available in the United States. During this time, Cuba had the second-highest rural infant and maternal death rates in Latin America. Most Cubans had no access to healthcare, especially outside of Havana. There was only one rural hospital in the country. Abortion was effectively only legal for the Cubans who could afford it—a reality we still face in the US. Only with socialism, and the expansion of free healthcare to all, came a full actualization of abortion rights in Cuba.

After the triumph of the revolution in 1959, health outcomes improved immediately. Cuba now has the most doctors per capita in the world. It even has a higher life expectancy and lower maternal mortality rate than the US. Full access to abortion was institutionalized in 1965 on four basic grounds: "it is the woman who decides, it needs to take place at a hospital, it needs to be carried out by expert staff, and it needs to be totally free." The only criminalization of abortion in Cuba is "when it is done for profit, outside of health institutions, by non-medical staff, or against a woman's will."

In the struggle to secure Cuba's strong abortion laws, as well as other protections like paid maternal leave, one should not underestimate the role played by revolutionary mass organizations like the Cuban Federation of Women (FMC), whose membership includes more than 85% of all eligible Cuban women over 14 years of age. Along with the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and the Organs of Popular Power (OPP), mass organizations like the FMC and Cuba Workers Federation (CTC) make up the pillars of Cuba's political system.

In Cuba, I met Dr. Samira Addrey. Born in Ghana, raised in the United States, and recently graduated from the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Cuba, Addrey is intimately familiar with the radical differences in the Cuban health system. She now coordinates a scholarship program for students from the US to study at ELAM for free, and subsequently work in underserved communities upon graduation. She explained how reproductive care currently works in Cuba.

"Every woman of reproductive age has the right to make the decision that is best for her reproductive health," Addrey told me. "As soon as a woman reaches the menstrual phase of her life, the family doctor and nurse in her neighborhood classify her within the reproductive age, typically 15 to 49 years approximately. Every factor that could contribute to or take away from good reproductive health for a woman is assessed from the beginning to the end," she stressed.

Addrey noted that a woman "is entitled to choose contraceptive methods that are appropriate for her health background and encouraged to involve her sexual partner in each consult visit to make sure they understand what good sexual and reproductive health means for both partners." "A woman is afforded a safe abortion for free, done by a medical doctor at any local policlinic or hospital," she added. "Reproductive health in Cuba is approached as a multifaceted part of every woman's life."

Thanks to the widespread availability of abortion, and public trust in the health system, the issue is much less stigmatized in Cuba than it is in the US. Addrey recalled that "numerous times, my OBGYN professors stressed that they prioritized the life of the woman before all else, especially in the case of life-threatening pregnancies. For them, it was a no brainer to save a woman's life if it meant losing a fetus because the woman still had a full life to live."

Cuba's constitution, which was revised through a democratic process in 2019, not only guarantees the right to free medical care, but it also enforces gender equality in all aspects of society, including sexual and reproductive rights: Women and men have equal rights and responsibilities in the eco-

nomic, political, cultural, occupational, social, and familial domains, as well as in any other domain. The State guarantees that both will be offered the same opportunities and possibilities. The State encourages the holistic development of women and their full social participation. It ensures the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights, protects them from gender-based violence in all forms and in all spaces, and creates the institutional and legal mechanisms to do so.

Notably Cubans get to directly participate in the rewriting of their constitution. Cuba is currently updating its 1975 Family Code, which codified gender equality into law, into a new Families Code. This process will update the island's existing regulations on marriage, divorce, adoption, and other family-related regulations, including by legalizing same-sex marriage, expanding the rights of children, allowing assisted pregnancies, fighting gender-based violence, and protecting the elderly.

In December 2021, the National Assembly of Cuba approved a draft of the Families Code bill to be sent out for popular consultation. From February to April 2022, more than 6 million Cubans, in more than 79,000 community meetings, participated in debate and discussion of the bill, making around 434,860 proposals, 61.96% of which were favorable. Even the 1.3 million Cubans living abroad were invited to participate online.

On May 15, Cuba's National Electoral Council delivered its summary of the national popular consultation to the National Assembly of People's Power. The drafting commission will now take the 434,860 proposals made by regular Cubans into consideration, delivering a new version of the draft to the National Assembly by June 17. The version approved by the assembly will then be submitted to a popular referendum for approval by the Cuban people.

Source: *miltipolarista.com*, 5/23/22

**Task Force on the Americas Report** is published quarterly by the Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas. Editorial Committee: Theresa Cameranesi, Carol Moeller Costa, Alice Loaiza, Dale Sorensen.

## SOUTH AMERICA

# Brazil's Lula Leads in Campaign to Unseat Bolsonaro

By Sam Cowie, journalist

Ed. Note: article edited for length

Chants of “Lula, warrior of the Brazilian people!” rang out as Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva, the country’s best-loved politician, took the microphone at a Labor Day event in Sao Paulo. “We do not accept this hatred that is being imposed by this genocidist who governs the Brazil,” the gravel voiced, two-time former president told the crowd, referring to the current president, Jair Bolsonaro. Lula, now 76, thus launched his sixth bid for Brazil’s presidency amid rocketing living costs and growing fears of authoritarianism in Latin America’s largest democracy.

Bolsonaro, a gun-loving nationalist, has repeatedly claimed without evidence that Brazil’s electronic voting system is vulnerable to fraud, setting the stage for a crisis when votes are counted. Brazilian pollster Datafolha said in March that Lula held a 17-point lead over Bolsonaro, but experts predict it will tighten as the elections approach. “It’s going to be a very tough election,” said Thomas Traumann, a political analyst and former communications minister for Lula’s Workers’ Party (PT).

Born into extreme poverty in the backlands of Brazil’s northeast, Lula led metalworker strikes in Sao Paulo’s industrial suburbs in the late 1970s during the country’s military dictatorship and afterwards went into politics. Elected president on his fourth attempt in 2002 during a global commodities boom, international experts lauded his policies of hunger eradication and social inclusion in one of the world’s most brutally unequal countries. “Before Lula, many people in my district lived in shacks made from wood and cardboard,” said Juliana Cardoso, a four-time Sao Paulo city councilor for PT. “Lula brought jobs, decent food, housing and university education to the working class.”

Today, with an economy rocked by COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, Brazil’s inflation is soaring with sharp price hikes on cooking gas, fuel and basic food items. More than half of the population suffers food insecurity, with reports of people queueing at butcher shops for donations of bones making national headlines. “People



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva  
(Photo: Agencia Brasil)

don’t have income and whoever is working can’t afford to put food on the table,” Cardoso said. “The people of my district want President Lula to come back ... They won’t accept scraping bones to eat, or not having schools and opportunity.”

Unemployment has dropped slightly but remains high while many new job vacancies are precarious and low paying. Analysts consider a labor reform package to expand the rights of Brazil’s ever-growing army of delivery app drivers a top priority and one that Lula mentioned during a speech. “The job market is changing in Brazil,” said Nelson Barbosa, an economist and former planning minister with PT. “This requires an adaptation of legislation, taxation ... reform that gives more security to the worker with the flexibility that these current technologies demand.”

If elected in October, Lula will face significant challenges to alleviate poverty concerns while tackling inflation and delivering growth to generate jobs. “Brazil is increasingly specialized in commodities,” Barbosa said. “The problem is commodities don’t generate enough jobs for a country of 210 million people.” High commodity prices could help fund social policies and diversification programs for industry and green energy to deliver growth, he said. “Brazil has already done this in the past. But the

biggest challenge is governability.” Lula would have to work with Brazil’s notoriously horse-trading national Congress.

Experts predict Bolsonaro loyalist candidates will fare worse than in 2018, but that Lula and allied parties will not have the majority necessary to push through reforms, presenting possible problems for governability. He chose center-right former Sao Paulo governor and 2006 elections rival Geraldo Alckmin to be his vice president, an attempt to get the country’s political center on his side.

Last year, Brazil’s Supreme Court annulled a corruption-related conviction that saw Lula jailed in 2018. The UN Human Rights Committee recently concluded that the trial by Judge Sergio Moro, who was Bolsonaro’s justice minister, violated due process. Lula, his lawyers, many other jurists, and his supporters always blasted the conviction as a political witch-hunt to prevent him running in 2018 elections that Bolsonaro won.

While cleared of charges and by far the country’s most popular politician, for his many critics in Brazil, Lula remains at best irresponsible and at worst a criminal. But other long-term Lula detractors, such as former Sao Paulo governor and now presidential candidate Joao Doria, appeared to have toned down their rhetoric.

Bolsonaro and some of his supporters have tried to frame the elections as akin to a holy war in which the far-right leader is the messiah. “It’s not a fight of the left against the right; it’s a fight of good versus evil.”

The specter of some kind of authoritarian power grab in a country that endured a brutal 21-year military dictatorship backed by the US looms large. A poll last year found that half of Brazilians feared Bolsonaro could try to stage some sort of coup. The former army captain maintains a solid base of hardline supporters, including in the armed forces, though most experts consider a “tanks on the street” style putsch unlikely.

“The fact is that Bolsonaro isn’t popular and neither is his government,” said Traumann. As with his idol Donald Trump, it is doubtful that Bolsonaro will accept the elections results.

Source: *Al Jazeera*, 05/06/22

## NORTH AMERICA

# MEXICO: “It’s Not a Drought”

By Tamara Pearson, journalist

Ed. Note: Summary of a longer article.

Mexico is heading into the worst months of its dry season. Fifteen of 32 states are experiencing extremely high stress on water resources as use surpasses the amount available. Much of Mexico is close to the point of “Day Zero,” which is the date when a region will lack sufficient water to meet basic needs. Monterrey and Nuevo Leon only have two months of water reserves and Mexico City has two years. In comparison, England is considered to be in the “jaws of death” because its Day Zero is 25 years away!

Indigenous activists argue that the multinational corporations, often with government support, are responsible for causing environmental damages and water shortages rather than blaming the dry season. A caravan of concerned Indigenous peoples called “for Water and Life” left Puebla on March 22 and covered nine states, visiting Indigenous communities across Mexico for 34 days. “It’s not a drought, it’s looting” was one of the main chants of the month-long caravan. Others were: “Water is not for sale.” “No more armed forces in our towns.”

María de Jesús Patricio, or Marichuy, a spokesperson for the National Indigenous Council (CNI) and the first female Indigenous presidential hopeful, told Truthout that the caravan was showing people that “our problems are similar. Communities are seeking ways to walk together and denounce all the different types of plundering.” The communities that were visited by the caravan are confronting megaprojects, where extractive and manufacturing companies, often from the US or Europe, have built massive amounts of infrastructure, such as hydroelectric plants and gas pipelines that plunder the communities of their water and energy resources.

Often entire Indigenous communities are displaced. Across Mexico some 4,200 dam construction projects have forced 185,000 people from their homes. Last year 25 activists defending their land were murdered with 238 violent attacks recorded, making it the most violent year since 2014, when the Mexican Center for environmental Rights (CEM-DA) began keeping a tally.

For the launch, the caravan held a press



Water Rights Activists Organize in Mexico.

(Photo: Tamara Pearson)

conference and marched outside Bonafont, a water bottling plant that is owned by Danone. Local Nahua peoples had taken over the plant last year but were evicted by the military in February. Now the bottling plant is guarded by security forces in full battle gear with a wall of 20-liter water bottles and two steel fences.

San Miguel Xoxtla was next, a nearby region that European steel company Ternium is turning to dust. Putrid toxic waste and ashes are spewed out over the land. Ternium’s excessive use of water is leaving locals without, and the runoff from its manufacturing processes is polluting a canal and one of the three main water wells in Xoxtla that supplies water to people’s homes. The canal passes through corn, bean, and zucchini farms, contaminating the crops. Cancer cases and deaths have increased since Ternium (Hylsa) began operating.

After a march in Puebla City to protest outside the state parliament, and visits to other communities such as San Isidro Huitlotepec, where locals are trying to stop a gas pipeline, the caravan headed to Ahuacatlan in the Sierra Norte mountains. There Totonaco and Nahau people and others celebrated that they have managed to stop a mega project which involved building a hydroelectric dam for a Walmart, a Suburbia, and other shops that would have left them without water for their crops.

Communities in the region have also been organizing for years to shut down open-pit gold mines owned by Canadian company

Almaden Minerals and the Espejeras project. The mines have destroyed thousands of hectares of forest and contaminated domestic water with cyanide used to separate gold from other minerals. Fifty towns also face water shortages due to hydroelectric dams redirecting water to the gold mines. Activists read out a statement affirming that in February and March, after seven years of resistance the courts canceled five mining concessions in Ixtacamaxitlán, Cuetzalan, Tlatlauquitepec and Yaonáhuac.

In Mexico City, mining, food, entertainment, and other companies consume 850 times more water than households on average and are a major contributor to water shortages.

From there they visited Xochimilco, in the south of the city, where Indigenous people used to farm using a system of built-up islands among the huge lakes and canals. For the last century, the water has been sent to Mexico City and the canals are drying up, leaving farmers and residents without water.

The caravan “is a message that (original) peoples are bringing to other peoples and communities, suburbs, organizations. As they go, they bring the message that it is important to struggle, to organize, to defend water and life, and that together, it’s possible to stop all this,” said Marichuy.

Source: <https://truthout.org/articles/its>, 4/21/2022. Copyright, Truthout.org. Reprinted with permission.



### HAITI: The Ransom is Still Being Paid

*By Robert Roth, educator, activist, and co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee*

On May 20th, The New York Times published a meticulously documented series entitled, *The Ransom*, detailing the devastating impact of the so-called “Independence Tax” enforced by France in 1825 on the world’s first Black republic. As The Times reported, Haiti became the only place where the descendants of enslaved people were forced to pay compensation to the descendants of slave owners. With the first payment to France, Haiti had to shut down its nascent public school system. And as the billions of dollars paid to France and then to US banks like Citicorp multiplied, Haiti’s economy disintegrated.

The Times series comes nearly 20 years after the administration of then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide formally demanded \$21.7 billion from France as restitution for the funds extorted from Haiti. This was a key factor in France’s cooperation and support for the US-orchestrated coup that overthrew Aristide’s democratically elected government. Mainstream media at the time, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, treated the demand as “Quixotic” and a “publicity stunt”, as their reporters wrote one article after another demonizing the democratically elected Aristide administration, thus helping to lay the ideological justifications for the 2004 coup d’etat.

We do not anticipate a self-criticism from The Times for its past reporting. Hardly. But as Times readers study the new series, they will hopefully demand to know more about the ways in which the US and France continue to exploit Haiti’s resources, dominate its political life and prop up the tiny, violent and corrupt Haitian elite that now rules the country. And they will hopefully call for an accurate accounting of the powerful Haitian grassroots movement that continues to fight for democracy and true sovereignty.

Take for example the recent uprising of Haiti’s factory workers. On February 17, 2022, thousands of Haitian garment workers, their families and supporters, filled the streets of Port-au-Prince to

demand an end to starvation wages and horrific working conditions. The workers demanded a wage increase from 500 gourdes per 9-hour workday (approximately \$4.80) to 1500 gourdes per day (approximately \$14.40). As the demonstrations continued throughout the next week, Haitian police fired on the crowds with tear gas cannisters and live ammunition, killing a journalist and wounding many other protestors.

The garment workers strike came in the midst of double-digit inflation in Haiti, with the prices of food, fuel and other commodities soaring. To make matters worse, the government of de facto prime minister Ariel Henry recently announced that it would end fuel subsidies, leading to even higher prices. In numerous interviews, workers expressed outrage over the government’s actions, pointing out that the cost of traveling to and from their factory jobs alone took up 40% of their daily wage. Workers chanted, “You raised the gas, but didn’t raise our salaries”.

In 1991, Haiti’s President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was set to raise the minimum wage, when a US-organized coup toppled his government only seven months into his term. In February of 2003, during his second administration, Aristide doubled the minimum wage, impacting the more than 20,000 people who worked in the Port-au-Prince assembly sector. The Aristide government provided school buses to take these workers’ children to school and subsidies for their schoolbooks and uniforms. In addition, his government launched a campaign to collect unpaid taxes and utility bills from Haiti’s wealthy elite. None of this sat well with Haiti’s factory owners, who helped plot and carry out the 2004 coup.

Haiti is still living with the effects of that coup. The coup fast-tracked the implementation of the US-imposed structural adjustment program, known in Haiti as the “Death Plan.” Nowhere was this more apparent than during the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake, which killed over 300,000 Haitians and left millions more under tarps and tents. Shortly after the earthquake, then-US

Secretary of State Hilary Clinton traveled to northern Haiti, declaring that “Haiti is now open for business”, as she hailed the inauguration of the Caracol Northern Industrial Park, now a key center of the garment industry and a target of the current labor protests and strikes. State Department cables revealed that Clinton and the State Department, along with USAID, were pressuring Haiti’s government to block any hike in the minimum wage, arguing that this would be detrimental to the development of the export sector. A series of compliant and corrupt Haitian regimes, selected and propped up by the US, have facilitated this plan, taking their cut along the way.

The current battle of Haiti’s garment workers for survival and dignity is part of the broader popular movement in Haiti. The workers who are in the streets of Port-au-Prince return home at night to communities like Belair, Cité Soleil and Lasalin, that have been targeted by Haitian police and paramilitary death squads, who have besieged them with massacres, kidnappings and gang rapes aimed at silencing their opposition to the current government.

The garment strike came just days after the term of de facto prime minister Ariel Henry officially ended on February 7th. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians have demonstrated for months their opposition to the continuation of this regime, which they rightly classify as illegitimate, a creation of the so-called Core Group (the United States, France, Spain, Brazil, Germany, Canada, the EU, the UN and the OAS) that controls Haiti’s politics. While the US State Department continues to support the Henry regime, grassroots organizations, including *Fanmi Lavalas* – the people’s party of Haiti – have called for a transitional government to end corruption, stop the repression, respect the rights of workers, stabilize the economy, and set the stage for free and fair elections.

Once again, it is the US that stands in the way. The ransom is still being paid – and reparations are long overdue.

Source: *Haiti Action Committee*  
6/11/22

## Alex Saab Fights for his Freedom in US Courts

By Roger D Harris, TFA Board

In a world where the US believes it makes the rules and the rest of humanity must follow its orders – what President Biden euphemistically calls the “rules-based order” – Washington has now even appropriated the prerogative to tell other countries who they may appoint as their ambassadors. As a consequence, Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab is fighting for his freedom in a Miami court.

Alex Saab was appointed a special envoy with diplomatic credentials by the Venezuelan government in 2018. He had worked on their food assistance and public housing programs. More importantly, he assisted Venezuela to circumvent sanctions imposed by the US; sanctions intended to punish the people so that they would be motivated to overthrow their democratically elected government.

The sanctions, which started in 2015 under Obama, have been ratcheted up by every successive US president since. Known as “unilateral coercive measures,” this kind of collective punishment is a form of economic warfare and is illegal under international law.

As the US Government Accountability Office admits: “The Venezuelan economy’s performance has...fallen steeply since the imposition of a series of US sanctions.” By barring access to basic necessities, such measures are as deadly as bombs. An estimated 100,000 Venezuelans have perished due to the sanctions as of March 2020, according to the UN.

On June 12, 2020, with diplomatic passport in hand, Alex Saab was en route from Caracas to Tehran to procure food, medicine, and fuel in legal international trade. His plane was diverted to Cabo Verde off the coast of West Africa for a refueling stop. There, in an egregious example of extra-territorial judicial overreach, the US had him seized without warrant and thrown in prison.

As a Venezuelan special envoy and deputy ambassador to the African Union, Saab was protected by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Under this treaty, diplomats are supposed to enjoy absolute immunity from arrest, even in the time of



Alex Saab Campaign Featured at Workers' Summit

(Photo: Roger D. Harris)

war. Not only is the US a signatory to the Vienna Convention, but the US Diplomatic Relations Act also protects all diplomats. Further, Saab is not a US citizen, and the alleged “crime” did not take place in the US. Rulings to free the diplomat by both the regional ECOWAS Court, which has jurisdiction over Cabo Verde, and the UN Human Rights Committee were ignored. In short, the US prosecution of Saab is not a legal one, but a purely political act in the economic war against Venezuela.

Then on October 16, 2021, the US perpetrated what Venezuelan President Maduro called the “second kidnapping.” Alex Saab was unlawfully abducted – spirited away with no legal papers and no notification to his family or legal team – and flown to Miami, where he has languished in prison. The US does not even have an extradition treaty with Cabo Verde.

Initially, the US charged Saab with eight counts of money laundering. But the charges were reduced to a single one of “conspiracy to money launder,” a notoriously vague legal gimmick that is conveniently difficult to disprove. Previously, an exhaustive three-year investigation into allegations that Saab was misusing Swiss banks found no evidence of money laundering. In fact, Saab is a political prisoner in the US empire’s drive to beat an independent Venezuela into submission by weaponizing economics.

The catastrophic US economic war against Venezuela, which deliberately and

effectively targeted the cash cow, the Venezuelan oil industry, is being countered. After suffering negative growth, the Venezuelan economy is recovering with strong increases in GDP. Hyperinflation and currency freefall have now been overcome. The oil industry, after crashing, is again exhibiting vital signs with help from Iran, Russia, and China. The spike in international oil prices associated with the conflict in Ukraine also benefits Venezuela.

However, the sanctions against Russia by the US and its allies are explicitly designed to impact Venezuela. Over 40 countries in addition to Venezuela are sanctioned by the US, some one-third of humanity. Especially with the initiative against Russia, the US may be inadvertently precipitating a global realignment with more and more countries forced to decouple from the US-dominated world economic system.

Alex Saab was instrumental in the economic turnaround. Venezuelan National Assembly President Rodríguez credited Saab with helping to “overcome the most brutal attack the country suffered,” which is precisely why the US has persecuted him.

Despite Washington’s best efforts to quash Venezuela, President Maduro has led a nation standing firm. The tide is flowing in favor of the Bolivarian Revolution and perhaps for Alex Saab. An international campaign has arisen to #FreeAlexSaab.

Source: *Task Force on the Americas*, 6/6/22

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# NEWS BRIEFS

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## **El Salvador: State of Exception Extended**

El Salvador's government has been accused of committing "massive human rights violations" during an extended "State of Exception" security crackdown that has seen more than 41,300 people arrested and at least 40 inmates dying in state custody since El Salvador imposed a suspension of certain civil liberties on March 27th, recently extended into a fourth month. According to data from Amnesty International, many of those victims reportedly suffered signs of violence or torture. Some of those arrested are reportedly as young as 12. The population of El Salvador's already overcrowded prisons has almost doubled since March, and nearly 2% of the country's entire adult population is now behind bars.

Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele response to a reported increase in gang violence had been swift and draconian. Independent polls suggest many of El Salvador's 6 million citizens don't mind, with Bukele's already high approval ratings rising since the crackdown was imposed. A majority of voters approve of the drop in violence achieved under Bukele's presidency, even if independent media reports suggest it was achieved through a secret pact with the gangs that appears to have temporarily collapsed in late March for reasons that remain murky.

Propaganda billboards dotting El Salvador's streets and motorways urge passersby to snitch on suspected criminals by calling an anonymous hotline, "to continue capturing terrorists."

Source: *Al Jazeera*, 06/21/22

## **Honduras: Berta Cáceres Assassination Trial**

On June 20th, a Honduran court finally issued the written verdict in the case against US trained former military intelligence officer, Roberto David Castillo, for the murder of Berta Cáceres, sentencing him to 22 years and 6 months in prison. Castillo was the CEO of hydroelectric corporation DESA which was attempting to build a hydroelectric project opposed by Berta Cáceres. However, the majority owner of DESA at the time of Cáceres' murder was a company owned by members of the powerful Atala Zablah family, which the family of Berta Cáceres says are the true masterminds of the crime and who still enjoy impunity. The Cáceres family has denounced that the Honduran Public Prosecutor's Office appears unwilling to investigate and prosecute members of Honduras' political and economic elite.

Source: *SOA Watch*, 06/23/22

## **Chile: Boric Lashes Out at Cuba, Venezuela**

The new president of Chile, Gabriel Boric, criticized the governments of Cuba and of Venezuela during his participation in the 9th Summit of the Americas, in Los Angeles, CA. Boric thus distanced himself further from positions stated during his electoral campaign, and from his reputation as a leftist student and youth leader.

Univisión released an interview in which Boric stated regarding Venezuelan migration to Chile, "I believe that no country has the capacity to absorb by itself a migratory flow as large as the one that has been from Venezuela in recent years." He did not mention the real reason for the Venezuelan migration: the economic, financial, and commercial blockade imposed on the country by the US government, which the former President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera, had supported. Boric also distanced himself from Hugo Chávez, saying that Chavez would not be an example for Boric's administration. "Unfortunately Hugo Chávez is not the path towards which I want us to build in Chile," he said. The Chilean president also criticized the current Venezuelan administration, asserting that the Maduro government is authoritarian and has concentrated powers, and called the Bolivarian government an incorrect political system. He criticized Cuba as well, stating that it is unacceptable that "they hold people prisoners for thinking differently."

Source: *Orinoco Tribune*, 6/11/22

## **Chile: Mapuche Groups Declared "Terrorists"**

The Chilean Chamber of Deputies has approved a resolution declaring four separate Mapuche organizations as illegal, and as terrorist associations. The draft resolution was adopted after the plenary session analyzed statements made by a Mapuche leader, Héctor Llaitul, regarding organizing an armed resistance in the southern part of the country in the face of the government's prior declaration of a state of emergency there, thereby militarizing Mapuche territories. The resolution was approved by a vote of 66 to 43, with 13 abstentions. Along with the resolution, President Gabriel Boric was requested to apply the anti-terrorist law against the four Mapuche organizations, and

to request that the counter-terrorism offices of the US State Department and the Council of the European Union also declare the Mapuche groups as terrorist organizations.

Last year, Boric campaigned against the militarization of the Araucanía region in the extreme south of Chile, for which he won the votes of those people who were hopeful that the centuries-old problem between the Mapuche indigenous people and the Chilean government would finally be resolved. However, recent polls show a sharp decrease in President Boric's support. Experts have remarked that a move against the Mapuche people, who have historically been under attack by Chilean oligarchs and transnational corporations to strip them of their land, will not improve his approval ratings.

Source: *Orinoco Tribune*, 06/02/22

## **Ecuador: Human Rights Violations**

The Regional Human Rights Advisory Foundation, INREDH, published a report on the 18-day national strike called by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador.

The three main branches of the indigenous movement: the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities, CONAIE; the National Confederation of Peasant, Indigenous and Black Organizations FENOCIN; and the Evangelical Indigenous Organizations of Ecuador; FEINE put on the table 10 demands on issues related to the reduction of fuel prices, prohibition of extractive projects, improvement in the prices of agricultural products, among others.

According to INREDH, the government never had the disposition to reach a dialogue. This was reflected in the repression denounced during the strike, although dialogue tables had been established.

From the first day of the demonstrations, on June 13, the calls of students and civilians were repressed by the national police. These aggressions increased, causing the death of several demonstrators.

According to INREDH, from the beginning of the indigenous movement's demands, the government, far from understanding the needs of a population segment, implemented a discourse to discredit the indigenous movement.

Source: *Telesur English*, 6/6/22

# Demand An End to Haitian Expulsions

As the humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues to worsen, the Biden administration is increasing expulsion flights to Haiti at an alarming rate: over 26,000 Haitians expelled by the Biden administration since taking office, more than any other president. Join us in calling on the administration to halt all removals to Haiti immediately.

Please sign the Quixote Center's petition to President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to halt all removals to Haiti immediately. <https://quixotecenter.salalabs.org/endhaitiremovals/>

The decision to continue expulsions to Haiti under Title 42 not only denies refugees an opportunity to seek hu-



*Father and daughter deported to Haiti*

*(Photo: Go Nakamura/Reuters)*



*Biden's Mass Deportations*  
*(Photo: Joseph Odelyn/AP)*

manitarian relief but is contributing to the instability in Haiti. These removals are a violation of the government's international obligations as well as domestic law, and directly contradict a recent court order requiring the Biden administration to provide credible fear interviews prior to Title 42 expulsions. We call on President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to halt all removals to

Haiti immediately. Humanitarian considerations should far outweigh any inconvenience the administration might claim. The United States should be providing humanitarian parole to Haitian refugees, not sending them back to the extraordinary dangers they will face.

**Stop the Deportations!**

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